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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for the production of compounds of the general formula I

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
CH_2 & CH_2 & CH_2 \\
\hline
CH = CH & CH_2 & CH_2 \\
\hline
CH_2 & D & CH_3
\end{array}$$
(I)

in the seed of transgenic plants with a content of at least 20% by weight based on the total lipid content, which comprises the following process steps:

- a) introducing, into the organism, at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes a
 polypeptide with Δ6-desaturase activity, and
- b) introducing, into the organism, at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with Δ6-elongase activity, and
- c) introducing, into the organism, at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with Δ5-desaturase activity, and
- d) introducing, into the organism, at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with Δ5-elongase activity that elongates only unsaturated C²⁰-fatty acids, and
- e) introducing, into the organism, at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with $\Delta 4$ -desaturase activity, and

where <u>in</u> the variables and substituents in formula I have the following meanings:

R¹ = hydroxyl, coenzyme A (thioester), lysophosphatidylcholine,
lysophosphatidylethanolamine, lysophosphatidylglycerol, lysodiphosphatidylglycerol, lysophosphatidylserine, lysophosphatidylinositol, sphingo
base or a radical of the general formula II

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$$H_{2}C-O-R^{2}$$
 $HC-O-R^{3}$
 $H_{2}C-O-$
(II)

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- R^2 = hydrogen, lysophosphatidylcholine, lysophosphatidylethanolamine, lysophosphatidylglycerol, lysophosphatidylglycerol, lysophosphatidylserine, lysophosphatidylinositol or saturated or unsaturated C_2 - C_{24} -alkylcarbonyl,
- R^3 = hydrogen, saturated or unsaturated C_2 - C_{24} -alkylcarbonyl, or R^2 and R^3 independently of one another are a radical of the general formula Ia:

$$\begin{array}{c|c} O & CH_2 & CH_2 & CH_3 \\ \hline \end{array}$$
 (Ia)

in which

$$n = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$$
 or $9, m = 2, 3, 4, 5$ or 6 and $p = 0$ or 3 .

2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the variables n, m and p have the following meanings:

$$n = 2$$
, 3 or 5, $m = 4$, 5 or 6 and $p = 0$ or 3.

- 3. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein, in formula I, the variables n, m and p have the following meanings:
 - (a) m = 4, n = 3, p = 3 and the compound is arachidonic acid,
 - (b) m = 5, n = 3, p = 0 and the compound is eicosapentaenoic acid,
 - (c) m = 5, n = 5, p = 0 and the compound is docosapentaenoic acid, or
 - (d) m = 6, n = 3, p = 0 and the compound is docosahexaenoic acid.
- 4. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein, in the seed of the transgenic plant, the content of all compounds of the formula I together amounts to at least 27% by weight based on the total lipid content.
- 5. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein, in the seed of the

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transgenic plant, the docosahexaenoic acid content amounts to at least 1% by weight based on the total lipid content.

- 6. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid sequences which encode polypeptides with Δ6-desaturase, Δ6-elongase, Δ5-desaturase, Δ5-elongase or Δ4-desaturase activity are selected from the group consisting of
 - a) a nucleic acid sequence with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 41, SEQ ID NO: 53, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 113, SEQ ID NO: 193,
 - b) nucleic acid sequences which, as the result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, can be derived from the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 42, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 88, SEQ ID NO: 114, SEQ ID NO: 194, and
 - c) derivatives of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 41, SEQ ID NO: 53, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 113, SEQ ID NO: 193, which encode polypeptides with at least 40% identity at the amino acid level with SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 42, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 88, SEQ ID NO: 114, SEQ ID NO: 194, and which have Δ6-desaturase, Δ6-elongase, Δ5-desaturase, Δ5-elongase or Δ4-desaturase activity.
- 7. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 1, wherein a nucleic acid sequence which encodes polypeptides with ω3-desaturase activity, selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a nucleic acid sequence with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 87 or SEQ ID NO: 105, or
 - nucleic acid sequences which, as the result of the degeneracy of the genetic code,
 can be derived from the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 88 or SEQ
 ID NO: 106, or
 - c) derivatives of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 87 or SEQ ID NO: 105, which encode polypeptides with at least 60% identity at the amino acid level with SEQ ID NO: 88 or SEQ ID NO: 106 and which have ω3-desaturase activity

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is additionally introduced into the transgenic plant.

8. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 1, wherein a nucleic acid sequence which encodes polypeptides with $\Delta 12$ -desaturase activity, selected from the group consisting of:

a) a nucleic acid sequence with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 107, SEQ ID NO: 109 or SEQ ID NO: 195, or

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- b) nucleic acid sequences which, as the result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, can be derived from the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 108, SEQ ID NO: 110 or SEQ ID NO: 196, or
- derivatives of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 107, SEQ ID NO: 109 or SEQ ID NO: 195, which encode polypeptides with at least 60% identity at the amino acid level with SEQ ID NO: 108, SEQ ID NO: 110 or SEQ ID NO: 196 and which have Δ 12-desaturase activity

is additionally introduced into the transgenic plant.

- 9. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 1, wherein a nucleic acid sequence which encodes proteins of the biosynthetic pathway of the fatty acid or lipid metabolism selected from the group acyl-CoA dehydrogenase(s), acyl-ACP [= acyl carrier protein] desaturase(s), acyl-ACP thioesterase(s), fatty acid acyltransferase(s), acyl-CoA:lysophospholipid acyltransferase(s), fatty acid synthase(s), fatty acid hydroxylase(s), acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase(s), acyl-coenzyme A oxidase(s), fatty acid desaturase(s), fatty acid acetylenases, lipoxygenases, triacylglycerol lipases, allenoxide synthases, hydroperoxide lyases or fatty acid elongase(s) is additionally introduced into the transgenic plant.
- 10. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the substituents R^2 or R^3 independently of one another are saturated or unsaturated C_{18} - C_{22} -alkylcarbonyl.
- 11. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the substituents R^2 or R^3 independently of one another are unsaturated C_{18} -, C_{20} or C_{22} -alkylcarbonyl with at least two double bonds.
- 12. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the transgenic plant is selected from the group consisting of an oil-producing plant, a vegetable plant and an

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ornamental.

13. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the transgenic plant is selected from the group of the plant families consisting of:

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Anacardiaceae, Asteraceae, Boraginaceae, Brassicaceae, Cannabaceae, Compositae, Cruciferae, Cucurbitaceae, Elaeagnaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Fabaceae, Geraniaceae, Gramineae, Leguminosae, Linaceae, Malvaceae, Moringaceae, Marchantiaceae, Onagraceae, Olacaceae, Oleaceae, Papaveraceae, Piperaceae, Pedaliaceae, Poaceae and Solanaceae.

- 14. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the compounds of the general formula I are isolated from the transgenic plant in the form of their oils, lipids or free fatty acids.
- 15. (Withdrawn) A process for the production, in transgenic plants, of compounds of the general formula I according to claim 1, comprising:
 - a) introducing, into a plant, at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with a $\Delta 6$ -desaturase activity and is selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) a nucleic acid sequence with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 193 or SEQ ID NO: 201,
 - ii) nucleic acid sequences which encode the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 194 or SEQ ID NO: 202,
 - iii) nucleic acid sequences which hybridize under stringent conditions with the complementary strand of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 193 or SEQ ID NO: 201, and
 - iv) nucleic acid sequences which have at least 60% identity with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 193 or SEQ ID NO: 201,
 - b) introducing, into the plant, at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with a $\Delta 6$ -elongase activity and is selected from the group consisting of:

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- i) a nucleic acid sequence with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 27 or SEQ ID NO: 199,
- ii) nucleic acid sequences which encode the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 28 or SEQ ID NO: 200,
- iii) nucleic acid sequences which hybridize under stringent conditions with the complementary strand of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 27 or SEQ ID NO: 199, and
- iv) nucleic acid sequences which have at least 60% identity with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 27 or SEQ ID NO: 199, and
- c) introducing, into the plant, at least one nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with a $\Delta 5$ -desaturase activity and is selected from the group consisting of:
 - i) a nucleic acid sequence with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 11,
 - ii) nucleic acid sequences which encode the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 12,
 - iii) nucleic acid sequences which hybridize under stringent conditions with the complementary strand of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 11, and
 - iv) nucleic acid sequences which have at least 60% identity with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 11,

where the variables and substituents in formula I have the meaning given in claim 1.

- 16. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, where the substituents R^2 or R^3 independently of one another are saturated or unsaturated C_{10} - C_{22} -alkylcarbonyl.
- 17. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein the substituents R^2 or R^3 independently of one another are unsaturated C_{18} -, C_{20} or C_{22} -alkylcarbonyl with at least two double bonds.
- 18. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with a Δ 12-desaturase activity is additionally introduced into the

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plant.

19. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 18, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a nucleic acid sequence with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 195,
- b) nucleic acid sequences which encode the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 196,

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- nucleic acid sequences which hybridize under stringent conditions with the complementary strand of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 195, and
- d) nucleic acid sequences which have at least 60% identity with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 195.
- 20. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 18, wherein the Δ 12-desaturase is expressed under the control of a seed-specific promoter.
- 21. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with a $\Delta 5$ -elongase activity is additionally introduced into the plant.
- 22. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a nucleic acid sequence with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 43, SEQ ID NO: 47, SEQ ID NO: 49, SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 53, SEQ ID NO: 59, SEQ ID NO: 61, SEQ ID NO: 63, SEQ ID NO: 65, SEQ ID NO: 67, SEQ ID NO: 75, SEQ ID NO: 77, SEQ ID NO: 79, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 85, SEQ ID NO: 113, SEQ ID NO: 117, SEQ ID NO: 119, SEQ ID NO: 131, SEQ ID NO: 133, SEQ ID NO: 135, SEQ ID NO: 137 or SEQ ID NO: 197,
 - b) nucleic acid sequences which encode the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 44, SEQ ID NO: 48, SEQ ID NO: 50, SEQ ID NO: 52, SEQ ID NO: 54, SEQ ID NO: 60, SEQ ID NO: 62, SEQ ID NO: 64, SEQ ID NO: 66, SEQ ID NO: 68, SEQ ID NO: 76, SEQ ID NO: 78, SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 81, SEQ ID NO: 86, SEQ ID NO: 114, SEQ ID NO: 118, SEQ ID NO: 120, SEQ ID NO: 132,

SEQ ID NO: 134, SEQ ID NO: 136, SEQ ID NO: 138 or SEQ ID NO: 198,

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- c) nucleic acid sequences which hybridize under stringent conditions with the complementary strand of the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 43, SEQ ID NO: 47, SEQ ID NO: 49, SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 53, SEQ ID NO: 59, SEQ ID NO: 61, SEQ ID NO: 63, SEQ ID NO: 65, SEQ ID NO: 67, SEQ ID NO: 75, SEQ ID NO: 77, SEQ ID NO: 79, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 85, SEQ ID NO: 113, SEQ ID NO: 117, SEQ ID NO: 119, SEQ ID NO: 131, SEQ ID NO: 133, SEQ ID NO: 135, SEQ ID NO: 137 or SEQ ID NO: 197, and
- nucleic acid sequences which have at least 60% identity with the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 43, SEQ ID NO: 47, SEQ ID NO: 49, SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 53, SEQ ID NO: 59, SEQ ID NO: 61, SEQ ID NO: 63, SEQ ID NO: 65, SEQ ID NO: 67, SEQ ID NO: 75, SEQ ID NO: 77, SEQ ID NO: 79, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 85, SEQ ID NO: 113, SEQ ID NO: 117, SEQ ID NO: 119, SEQ ID NO: 131, SEQ ID NO: 133, SEQ ID NO: 135, SEQ ID NO: 137 or SEQ ID NO: 197.
- 23. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 21, wherein the $\Delta 5$ -elongase is expressed under the control of a seed-specific promoter.
- 24. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein all nucleic acid sequences are introduced into the plants on a shared recombinant nucleic acid molecule.
- 25. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 24, wherein each nucleic acid sequence is under the control of its own promoter.
- 26. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 25, wherein the own promoter is a seed-specific promoter.
- 27. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein, in formula I, the variables n, m and p have the following meanings:
 - (a) m = 4, n = 3, p = 3 and the compound is arachidonic acid,
 - (b) m = 5, n = 3, p = 0 and the compound is eicosapentaenoic acid, or
 - (c) m = 6, n = 3, p = 0 and the compound is docosahexanoic acid.

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28. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein the plant is an oil seed plant or oil fruit plant.

29. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 28, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of soybean, peanut, oilseed rape, canola, linseed, evening primrose, mullein, thistle, hazelnut, almond, macadamia, avocado, bay, wild roses, pumpkin/squash, pistachios, sesame, sunflower, safflower, borage, maize, poppy, mustard, hemp, castor-oil plant, olive, Calendula, Punica, oil palm, walnut and coconut.

- 30. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 28, wherein the plant is *Brassica juncea*.
- 31. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein the compounds of the formula I are obtained from the plant in the form of their oils, lipids and free fatty acids.
- 32. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 31, wherein unsaturated or saturated fatty acids are liberated from the compounds of the formula I.
- 33. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 32, wherein the liberation is effected by alkaline hydrolysis or enzymatic cleavage.
- 34. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 27, wherein the arachidonic acid concentration amounts to at least 25% based on the total lipid content of the transgenic plant.
- 35. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 27, wherein the eicosapentaenoic acid concentration amounts to at least 15% based on the total lipid content of the transgenic plant.

36-37. (Cancelled)

- 38. (Withdrawn) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising:
 - a) one or more copies of a promoter which is active in plant cells, preferably in seed cells,
 - b) at least one nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 15 which encodes a $\Delta 6$ desaturase activity,
 - c) at least one nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 15 which encodes a $\Delta 5$ -desaturase activity,

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d) at least one nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 15 which encodes a $\Delta 6$ elongase activity, and

- e) one or more copies of a terminator sequence.
- 39. (Withdrawn) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 38, additionally comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with $\Delta 12$ -desaturase activity.
- 40. (Withdrawn) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 38, additionally comprising a nucleic acid sequence which encodes a polypeptide with $\Delta 5$ -elongase activity.
- 41. (Withdrawn) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 38, additionally comprising biosynthesis genes of the fatty acid or lipid metabolism selected from the group consisting of acyl-CoA dehydrogenase(s), acyl-ACP [= acyl carrier protein] desaturase(s), acyl-ACP thioesterase(s), fatty acid acyltransferase(s), acyl-CoA:lysophospholipid acyltransferase(s), fatty acid synthase(s), fatty acid hydroxylase(s), acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase(s), acyl-coenzyme A oxidase(s), fatty acid desaturase(s), fatty acid acetylenases, lipoxygenases, triacylglycerol lipases, allenoxide synthases, hydroperoxide lyases and fatty acid elongase(s).
- 42. (Withdrawn) The recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 38, additionally comprising biosynthesis genes of the fatty acid or lipid metabolism, selected from the group consisting of $\Delta 4$ -desaturase, $\Delta 8$ -desaturase, $\Delta 9$ -desaturase or $\Delta 9$ -elongase.
- 43. (Withdrawn) A transgenic plant comprising the recombinant nucleic acid molecule according to claim 38.
- 44. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 15, wherein the compounds of the general formula I are isolated from the transgenic plant in the form of their oils, lipids or free fatty acids.

45-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Withdrawn; currently amended) A process for the production of oils, lipids or fatty acid compositions by mixing the an oil, lipid or fatty acid composition[[s]] according to claim 46 comprising the compounds produced by the process of claim 1 with animal or

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microbial oils, lipids or fatty acids.

48. (Withdrawn) Feed, foodstuffs, cosmetics or pharmaceuticals prepared from the oil, lipid or fatty acid compositions according to claim 46.

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- 49. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid sequence which encodes polypeptides with $\Delta 5$ elongase activity and which has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 197.
- 50. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid sequence which encodes polypeptides with $\Delta 6$ elongase activity and which has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 199.
- 51. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid sequence which encodes polypeptides with $\Delta 6$ -desaturase activity and which has the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 201.
- 52. (Withdrawn) A gene construct comprising an the isolated nucleic acid according to claim 49, wherein the nucleic acid is linked functionally to one or more regulatory signals.
- (Withdrawn) The gene construct according to claim 52, wherein the nucleic acid construct comprises additional biosynthesis genes of the fatty acid or lipid metabolism selected from the group acyl-CoA dehydrogenase(s), acyl-ACP [= acyl carrier protein] desaturase(s), acyl-ACP thioesterase(s), fatty acid acyltransferase(s), acyl-CoA:lysophospholipid acyltransferase(s), fatty acid synthase(s), fatty acid hydroxylase(s), acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase(s), acyl-coenzyme A oxidase(s), fatty acid desaturase(s), fatty acid acetylenases, lipoxygenases, triacylglycerol lipases, allenoxide synthases, hydroperoxide lyases or fatty acid elongase(s).
- 54. (Withdrawn) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid according to claim 50.
- 55. (Withdrawn) A transgenic plant comprising at least one nucleic acid according to claim 50.
- 56. (Withdrawn) A gene construct comprising the isolated nucleic acid according to claim 50, wherein the nucleic acid is linked functionally to one or more regulatory signals.
- 57. (Withdrawn) A gene construct comprising the isolated nucleic acid according to claim 51, wherein the nucleic acid is linked functionally to one or more regulatory signals.
- 58. (Withdrawn) The gene construct according to claim 56, wherein the nucleic acid construct comprises additional biosynthesis genes of the fatty acid or lipid metabolism

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selected from the group acyl-CoA dehydrogenase(s), acyl-ACP [= acyl carrier protein] desaturase(s), acyl-ACP thioesterase(s), fatty acid acyltransferase(s), acyl-CoA:lysophospholipid acyltransferase(s), fatty acid synthase(s), fatty acid hydroxylase(s), acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase(s), acyl-coenzyme A oxidase(s), fatty acid desaturase(s), fatty acid acetylenases, lipoxygenases, triacylglycerol lipases, allenoxide synthases, hydroperoxide lyases or fatty acid elongase(s).

- 59. (Withdrawn) The gene construct according to claim 57, wherein the nucleic acid construct comprises additional biosynthesis genes of the fatty acid or lipid metabolism selected from the group acyl-CoA dehydrogenase(s), acyl-ACP [= acyl carrier protein] desaturase(s), acyl-ACP thioesterase(s), fatty acid acyltransferase(s), acyl-CoA:lysophospholipid acyltransferase(s), fatty acid synthase(s), fatty acid hydroxylase(s), acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase(s), acyl-coenzyme A oxidase(s), fatty acid desaturase(s), fatty acid acetylenases, lipoxygenases, triacylglycerol lipases, allenoxide synthases, hydroperoxide lyases or fatty acid elongase(s).
- (Withdrawn) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid according to claim 51. 60.
- 61. (Withdrawn) A vector comprising the gene construct according to claim 52.
- 62. (Withdrawn) A transgenic plant comprising at least one nucleic acid according to claim 51.
- 63. (Withdrawn) A transgenic plant comprising at least one gene construct according to claim 52.
- 64. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptide with $\Delta 5$ -elongase activity elongates only unsaturated C_{20} -fatty acids with one double in the $\Delta 5$ -position.
- (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the compounds of the general formula 65. I comprise fatty acids having 20 or 22 carbon atoms in the fatty acid chain.
- 66. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the organism is selected from the group consisting of soybean, peanut, oilseed rape, canola, linseed, evening primrose, mullein, thistle, hazelnut, almond, macadamia, avocado, bay, wild roses. pumpkin/squash, pistachios, sesame, sunflower, safflower, borage, maize, poppy, mustard, hemp, castor-oil plant, olive, Calendula, Punica, oil palm, walnut and coconut.